

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /158 W

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R 101718Z AUG 73

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 124

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CONFIDENTIAL JEC PARIS 21664

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, XA, XF

SUBJECT: ISSUE OF PRG AT ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

REF: SECSTATE 152754

1. (SUMMARY) PHONG OF GVNDEL HAS BEEN TOLD HE WILL HEAD A DELEGATION OF VISIT ARAB COUNTRIES IN CONNECTION WITH NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. PHONG HAS TOLD MFA HE BELIEVES ENTIRE PROPOSED PROGRAM OF VISITS WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. (END SUMMARY).

2. NGUYEN XUAN PHONG, DEPUTY CHIEF OF GVN DELEGATION TO GVN/PRG TALKS, TOLD DELOFF AUGUST 10 THAT GVN PLANNED TO SEND HIM TO SEVERAL ARAB COUNTRIES TO URGE THEM NOT TO RECOGNIZE PRG AT ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. PHONG WOULD HEAD DELGATION OF SENATORS AND DEPUTIES WHICH WOULD VISIT AT LEAST KUWAIT, BAHRAIN AND JORDAN.

3. PHONG SAID HE HAD SENT LONG CABLE TO MFA URGING WHOLE IDEA OF SENDING DELEGATIONS TO A LARGE NUMBER OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES BE CANCELLED. IN PHONG'S VIEW, VAST MAJORITY OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, WERE ALREADY FAVORABLE TO PRG AND APPROACH BY

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GVN DELEGATIONS AT THIS LATE DATE WOULD ONLY HARDEN

PRO-PRG ATTITUDES AND PROVIDE OCCASION FOR PRG PROPAGANDA
ON SUCH ISSUES AS RELEASE OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS.
GVN DELEGATIONS WOULD BE HANDICAPPED IN ARAB COUNTRIES
BECAUSE OF GVN'S FRIENDLY TIES WITH ISRAEL.

4. PHONG BELIEVED BEST GVN TACTIC FOR SHORT TERM WOULD
BE FOR FRIENDLY COUNTRIES SUCH AS LAOS, MALAYSIA AND
INDONESIA TO DEFEND GVN AS STOUTLY AS POSSIBLE AT NON-
ALIGNED CONFERENCE. IN LONGER RUN, GVN SHOULD
ENDEAVOR TO IMPROVE ITS DIPLOMATIC POSITION BY CARRYING
ON A BROAD PROGRAM OF DISCREET DIPLOMACY INCLUDING
PRESIDENTIAL ENVOYS AND MESSAGES.

5. AS EXAMPLE OF WRONG APPROACH PHONG MENTIONED SENEGAL'S
RECOGNITION OF PRG. AFTER GOS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS
RECOGNITION GVN SHOULD HAVE QUIETLY SENT A PRESIDENTIAL
ENVOY TO TRY TO PERSUADE PRESIDENT SENGHOR TO AT LEAST
GO SLOW IN IMPLEMENTING DECISION. INSTEAD SAIGON
ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT WHICH FORCED SENEGAL TO
REAFFIRM ITS POSITION. PHONG REMARKED THAT SENEGAL
PRESENTED GVN WITH FIRST CASE OF PROBLEM, AS YET UNRESOLVED, OF
HOW TO DEAL WITH COUNTRIES THAT RECOGNIZE TWO GOVERNMENTS
IN SOUTH VIET-NAM.

6. GVN DELEGATION CHIEF NGUYEN LUU VIEN IS SCHEDULED TO
VISIT TUNISIA, WHICH IN PHONG'S OPINION POSES LESS OF A
PROBLEM BECAUSE GVN MAINTAINS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
THERE. HOWEVER, BOURGUIBA HAS NOT YET SET A DATE.

7. PHONG'S TRIP, IF IT TAKES PLACE, WILL BEGIN ABOUT
AUGUST 17, BUT SCHEDULE IS NOT YET FIRM.

8. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERIM GOVERNMENT, VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JECPA21664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MOSSLER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JEC PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730846/aaaabhku.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SECSTATE 152754
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISSUE OF PRG AT ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, XA, XF, US, (PHONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005